

**REMARKS**

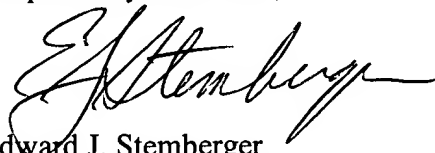
Reconsideration and entry of this Amendment are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 9-13 have been amended. Claims 8 and 14 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-7 and 9-13 are pending.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3-7, 9-13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. In lieu of rewriting claim 14 in independent format, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 14. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance. Claims 9-13 have been rewritten in independent format including all the features of base claim 8. Thus, claims 9-13 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-0687, under Order No. 95-332, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Date: March 9, 2004**